(c) The incident took place near a railway crossing on 7th July 2004 at around 2400 hrs, when the driver and escort Shri Madan Lal, Shri Paramjit Rana and Sepoy Sanjay Kumar noticed one person running away from the rear of the vehicle into the bushes. The driver and escort, on preliminary check, noticed that the vehicle ropes were loosened at the rear and suspecting a theft, they lodged an FIR with Julwani Police Post of Badwani District. Subsequently, on carrying out a detailed check of the consignment, no loss was noticed and the same was intimated by Central Aviation Stores Depot Delhi Cantonment to the Julwani Police Post, Badwani District, *vide* a communication dated 26.7.2004 to treat the case as closed.

Merger of Secunderabad Cantonment Board with Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad

1476. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in the Ministry to merge Secunderabad Cantonment Board with the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad;

(b) if so, when such a request was received in the Ministry; and

(c) the action contemplated by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A request was received during the year 1999. A similar request has also been received on 19th July 2004.

(c) The request of the State Government was considered by the Government and it has not been found feasible to merge the Cantonment areas with the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad due to security considerations.

Casualties in De-mining Operations

1477. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Army personnel/civilians killed in de-mining operations